

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
EASTERN DIVISION

JOSEPH J.H. MORRELL, SR.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
)	
VS.)	No. 17-1158-JDT-cgc
)	
)	
ANTHONY BLACKWELL,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

ORDER DIRECTING PLAINTIFF TO COMPLY WITH 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2)
OR PAY THE \$400 CIVIL FILING FEE

On August 17, 2017, Plaintiff Joseph J.H. Morrell, Sr., who is incarcerated at the Trousdale Turner Correctional Center in Hartsville, Tennessee, filed a civil complaint accompanied by a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1 & 2.)

Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(a)-(b), a prisoner bringing a civil action must pay the filing fee required by 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). Although the obligation to pay the fee accrues at the moment the case is filed, *see McGore v. Wrigglesworth*, 114 F.3d 601, 605 (6th Cir. 1997), *partially overruled on other grounds by LaFountain v. Harry*, 716 F.3d 944, 951 (6th Cir. 2013), the PLRA provides the prisoner the opportunity to make a “down payment” of a partial filing fee and pay the remainder in installments. § 1915(b)(2). However, in order to take advantage of the installment

procedures, the prisoner must properly complete and submit to the district court, along with the complaint, an *in forma pauperis* affidavit containing a current certification by the prison trust account officer and a copy of his trust account statement for the six months immediately preceding the filing of the complaint. § 1915(a)(2).

In this case, the affidavit submitted by Plaintiff is accompanied by a copy of a memo to the TTCC trust fund custodian dated August 1, 2017, in which Plaintiff requests a certified copy of his trust account statement. (ECF No. 2-1.) Plaintiff's cover letter to the Court states that he will submit the trust account statement as soon as he receives it. (ECF No. 2-2.) Accordingly, Plaintiff is ORDERED to submit, within 30 days after the date of this order, either the entire \$400 civil filing fee¹ or a copy of his trust account statement for the last six months. If Plaintiff needs additional time to file the required document, he may request one 30-day extension of time from this Court. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 605.

If Plaintiff timely submits the necessary document and the Court finds that he is indeed indigent, the Court will grant leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* and assess a filing fee of \$350 in accordance with the installment procedures of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b). However, if Plaintiff fails to comply with this order in a timely manner, the Court will deny leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, assess the entire \$400 filing fee without regard to the installment

¹ Twenty-eight U.S.C. § 1914(a) requires a civil filing fee of \$350. In addition, § 1914(b) requires the clerk to “collect from the parties such additional fees . . . as are prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States.” The Judicial Conference has prescribed an additional administrative fee of \$50 for filing any civil case, except for cases seeking habeas corpus and cases in which the plaintiff is granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. Therefore, if Plaintiff is ultimately granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in accordance with the PLRA, he will not be responsible for the additional \$50 fee.

payment procedures, and dismiss the action without further notice pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), for failure to prosecute. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 605.²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ James D. Todd
JAMES D. TODD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

² Even a voluntary dismissal by Plaintiff will not eliminate the obligation to pay the filing fee. *McGore*, 114 F.3d at 607; *see also In re Alea*, 286 F.3d 378, 381 (6th Cir. 2002).